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U.S. Maps Step-Up In Vietnam War

By LYLE NELSON

Defense Secretary McNamara returned to Washington today to report to President Kennedy on yesterday's nine-hour session in Honolulu on Vietnam.

Spokesmen for the top-level political and military policymakers said this much about what went on behind closed doors:

1—Military operations against Communist insurgents will be stepped up and the outlook for victory is "encouraging."

2—American leaders have established "excellent working relations" with the new government in Saigon.

3—In less than two weeks 300 U.S. servicemen will leave Vietnam for home. Another 700 will follow before the end of the year.

4—There will be no personnel changes among U.S. military advisers in Saigon.

5—There will be no "major" changes in the U.S. financial aid program for the embattled country in Southeast Asia.

The top seven men involved in the conference said nothing when it was over.

McNamara, Secretary of

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Lodge with bathing trunks and towel. He managed to take a dip during the lunch break at Keehi Lagoon.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Jack Titchen.

Ambassador Lodge Feeds Quarters Into Pay Phone

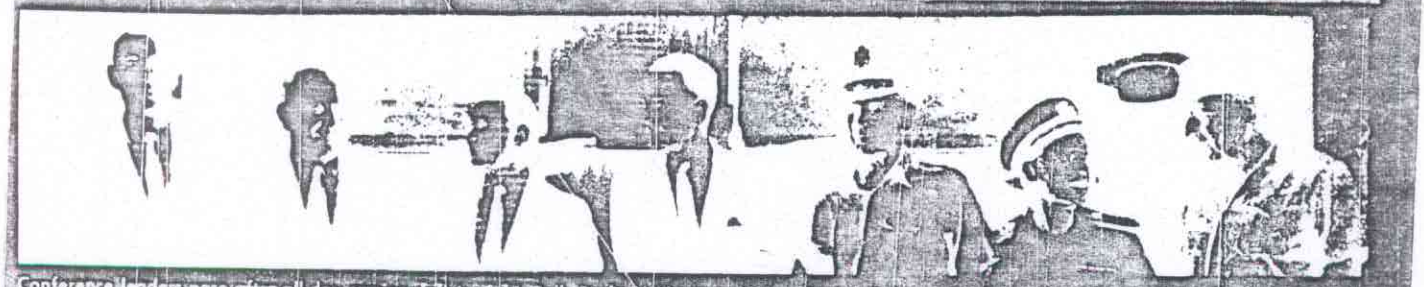
One of the intriguing questions arising out of the "summit conference" was why Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge had to use a pay phone to make an overseas call.

There he was at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, with a stack of quarters in his hand, putting coin after coin in the box.

It was Lodge's first day in the Islands and he was able to spend some time on the beach. Then he had lunch.

Instead of returning to the privacy of his room to make the call, or arranging it over military circuits, there the dapper diplomat stood, just like any tourist, making a telephone call.

While most of those attending the "summit conference" were housed in military facilities, Lodge had a room at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, aides said.



Conference leaders pose after all-day session. Left to right—Bell, Rusk, McNamara, Lodge, Taylor, Felt and Harkins.—Star-Bulletin Photo by Jack Titchen.

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State Dean Rusk, Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam; David E. Bell, financial aid chief; General Maxwell D. Taylor, Admiral Harry D. Felt and General Paul D. Harkins went their separate ways minutes after the conference ended yesterday.

They paused only long enough for a group photograph.

Robert Manning, Rusk's spokesman, was asked if there will be any overall change in U.S. policy in Vietnam.

He answered "no."

Rusk himself was asked to comment on the conference, but he grinned and said only that it was "fruitful."

After McNamara had boarded a C-135 Air Force jet for the return trip to Washington, Felt was questioned about military operations against the Communists

I hope there'll be a speed-up," he said, "there's no reason why there shouldn't be." He added that the prime object is to get the war over with in the shortest time possible."

BACK TO SAIGON

General Harkins flew to his post in Saigon this morning, with Lodge leaving for Washington less than an hour later for a meeting with Kennedy that had been postponed because of the November 1 overthrow of the Diem government.

Rusk will leave for Tokyo at 8:30 tomorrow morning accompanied by five other cabinet members scheduled to arrive in Honolulu this afternoon from the Mainland.

They will attend an economic conference with Japanese cabinet officials.

Manning said every aspect of U.S. involvement in

over the green horseshoe table at Pali's briefing room atop Halawa Heights.

RAW MATERIAL

"I don't know any part that wasn't discussed," Manning said.

He added that rather than setting new policies the conference members produced "raw material for recommendations to the President."

Serious as the session was, the conferees took a relaxing lunch break.

They went to the Keehi Lagoon military recreation center for hot dogs and hamburgers and Lodge, among others, took a dip in the waters near Honolulu International Airport.

Conference points made in a prepared statement read to the press by Arthur Sylvester, McNamara's spokesman, included:

Conference members

Vietnam Step-Up

...made a ... report ... of the situation in South Vietnam since the change of government.

The many separate reports given in the briefings added up, the statement said, to an encouraging outlook for the ... successful prosecution of the war.

The U.S. and the new Saigon regime are getting along fine as they face "the many difficult problems remaining in Vietnam."

The decision to pull out a token 1,000 troops of 16,500 that are in the country was not made yesterday.

This decision was reached in Washington following the McNamara-Taylor on-the-spot inspection in late September before the revolutionists took over.

Apparently the conference stressed Vietnam almost exclusively.

Manning admitted Cambodia and Laos were discussed a little but only as they related to Vietnam because of common border.

Rusk had said, on his morning arrival at Hickam Air Force Base, that the current U.S.-Cambodia diplomatic squabble would be ironed out in Washington and the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

NO ESTIMATE

Manning would not be drawn into a discussion on when the Vietnam war might end.

And Sylvester said "forget any military changes," referring to speculation that Harkins might be replaced under pressure from the new Saigon regime.

Kennedy has said Harkins will stay on the job as head of the U.S. military assistance advisory group.

Manning said the principals in the conference met alone at 8 a.m. yesterday.

Forty minutes later dozens of others joined in for a general session that lasted until noon.

Included, of course, were top military leaders who hang their hats in Honolulu offices.

The sessions were described as "shirtsleeve" by one spokesman who added "a few kept their coats on."

Later the meeting broke into "working groups," Manning said, and he mentioned five categories: economics, general plans for future implementation, system of reporting, para-military matters, and public affairs.

Later the principal participants holed up in private again until the conference ended.

The lesser lights ambled out of Camp Smith shortly after 5 p.m. when Sylvester read the statement.

They had to wait another hour and a half for the appearance of the principals which included the Bundy brothers, McGeorge and William.

Manning said problems were discussed back and forth across the table in the windowless room and were frequently broken by specialized briefings before large wall maps.